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****Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

****To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.***

1 – Another 'black eye' for America's energy capital, E&E News, 3/25/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/03/25/stories/1060128131>

The fire-fueled plume that darkened a swath of the Texas sky last week was just the beginning of an unfolding disaster in this U.S. oil and petrochemical hub. The problems are centered east of Houston, where crews are trying to contain dangerous materials unleashed by tank fires at an Intercontinental Terminals Co. (ITC) facility.

2 - What happened at ITC facility in Deer Park over the weekend?, Houston Chronicle, 3/25/19

<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/What-happened-at-ITC-facility-in-Deer-Park-over-13713732.php>

Environmental recovery operations continued over the weekend at the Intercontinental Terminals Co. facility, after a series of setbacks Friday appeared to slow the cleanup effort.

3 - Several toxins found in water near ITC; ship channel remains closed, KPRC, 3/24/19

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/chemicals-from-itc-leaked-into-ship-channel-prompting-closure-and-us-coast-guard-response>

Nine toxins were detected from water samples near the ITC Deer Park ditch after multiple chemicals from the facility leaked into the Houston Ship Channel after a dike wall collapsed Friday, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

4 - TCEQ brings in more resources after 'worsening and unstable conditions' at ITC, KHOU, 3/24/19

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/itc-fire/tceq-brings-in-more-resources-after-worsening-and-unstable-conditions-at-itc/285-e4fa50a4-c1dd-4f77-91d9-b32344998fe0>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has a contractor using booms and pumping water into storage containers to contain runoff from the ITC site.

5 - US Coast Guard triples length of booms deployed in ITC cleanup, KPRC, 3/24/19

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/us-coast-guard-triples-length-of-booms-deployed-in-itc-cleanup>

The U.S. Coast Guard has tripled the length of booms it has deployed, hoping to contain more of the toxic product released during the Intercontinental Terminal Company fire in Deer Park and its clean-up process.

6 – Officials: Significant progress made in cleanup efforts at ITC facility in Deer Park, KHOU, 3/24/19

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/itc-fire/officials-significant-progress-made-in-cleanup-efforts-at-itc-facility-in-deer-park/285-36d2b2fc-9660-4edd-bfc6-f3a730005a3c>

Officials at Intercontinental Terminals Company said significant progress was made overnight in the effort to remove chemicals from damaged tanks. By 2 a.m. Sunday, crews had removed about 13,000 of the estimated 20,000 barrels of Pyrolysis Gas from tank 80-7. Crews are continuing to work to remove the remaining liquid.

7 – UPDATE: Texas Sues Deer Park Petrochemical Company For Violations Of Clean Air Act, Houston Public Media, 3/22/19

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2019/03/22/326225/epa-says-situation-becoming-stable-in-deer-park-itc-warns-about-potential-benzene-emissions-during-cleanup/>

The State of Texas is suing Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) for violations of the Texas Clean Air Act related to the massive fire at the company's Deer Park petrochemical facility and its aftermath.

8 - ITC Reports Breach Cause Unknown, New Fire is Out, Pumping Suspended, Houston Press, 3/23/19

<https://www.houstonpress.com/news/itc-reports-fires-are-out-parts-of-ship-channel-remain-closed-11262234>

One week after their Deer Park plant caught on fire and released chemical vapors into the surrounding neighborhoods, ITC officials held another press conference Saturday morning to review their latest setbacks and outline what they'll do next.

9 – Environmentalists take petrochemical giant Formosa to court over plastics pollution, Texas Tribune, 3/25/19

<https://www.texastribune.org/2019/03/25/formosa-goes-to-federal-court-for-alleged-plastic-pollution/>

For years, Diane Wilson has tried to get Formosa Plastics Corporation to stop discharging plastic pellets from its sprawling petrochemical complex on the central Texas coast. This week, she's getting her day in court.

10 – SWEPCO detects lithium in wells near coal ash storage sites at Pirkey Power Plant, Longview (TX) News-Journal, 3/24/19

https://www.news-journal.com/news/local/swepco-detects-lithium-in-wells-near-coal-ash-storage-sites/article_95c91824-475f-11e9-8a22-7393eee7e1c1.html

Residents on well water within a mile of the Pirkey Power Plant south of Hallsville have been notified of recent test results showing harmful chemicals found in two wells serving about a half-dozen families.

11 – Advocate: EPA needs to communicate better as plume near Socorro grows, Albuquerque Journal, 3/24/19

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1295693/advocate-epa-needs-to-communicate-better-as-plume-near-socorro-grows.html>

Almost a half-century after industrial waste was dumped in unlined lagoons at the Eagle Picher Carefree Battery Superfund site north of Socorro, the New Mexico Environment Department said it could take another 20 to 30 years to clean up.

12 – Tribes urge U.S. to ban drilling around sacred N.M. site, E&E News, 3/25/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/03/25/stories/1060128067>

Native American leaders are banding together to pressure U.S. officials to ban oil and gas exploration around a sacred tribal site that features massive stone structures and other remnants of an ancient civilization but are facing the Trump administration's pro-drilling stance.

13 – Fed review could stymie race to export Texas oil, E&E News, 3/25/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060128103>

The Army Corps of Engineers is planning a full-blown environmental review of a major oil export project in Texas — a development that could delay its construction at a time when producers and the Trump administration are pushing to send crude overseas.

14 – First-of-its-kind U.S. waste dump marks 20 years, E&E News, 3/25/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/03/25/stories/1060128123>

In a remote stretch of New Mexico desert, the U.S. government put in motion an experiment aimed at proving to the world that radioactive waste could be safely disposed of deep underground, rendering it less of a threat to the environment.

15 – OPINION: The clean water fight puts spotlight on agency not up to the task, Arkansas Times, 3/25/19

<https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2019/03/25/the-clean-water-fight-puts-spotlight-on-agency-not-up-to-the-task>

The Farm Bureau has assembled a mighty rural lobbying force to transfer regulation of liquid animal waste (pig manure particularly) from the Department of Environmental Quality to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, which isn't always able to carry out its existing role in protecting natural resources.

16 – Stormwater vote on horizon, Norman (OK) Transcript, 3/25/19

https://www.normantranscript.com/news/stormwater-vote-on-horizon/article_81f7e5b4-4df9-11e9-9873-eb31e7d6ac.html

On April 2, Norman voters will head to the polls to vote on stormwater for a second time in four years. The last stormwater proposal was soundly defeated, but city leaders hope that over a year of citizen committee meetings, open houses and study sessions will be enough to convince voters that the stormwater bond and stormwater utility measures are worth it.

17 – NFIP changes likely to impact Louisiana residents, but officials are hopeful update is a positive, Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/25/19

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/article_de437924-4ce5-11e9-93f6-b3d413837e91.html

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced a major plan to overhaul how risk is assessed in the National Flood Insurance Program, which could mean major changes for Louisiana homeowners, but details remain murky and state officials say they're holding out hope for an ultimately positive outcome.

18 – More bad news for coal: Wind and solar are getting cheaper, NBC, 3/25/19

<https://www.nbc-2.com/story/40187587/most-of-americas-coal-plants-are-more-expensive-to-run-than-wind-and-solar>

The simple laws of economics threaten to doom America's remaining coal power plants. Wind and solar costs have plunged so rapidly that 74% of the US coal fleet could be phased out for renewable energy -- and still save customers money, according to a report released on Monday by Energy Innovation, a nonpartisan think tank.

19 – 30 years later, re-live the incredible scenes from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Houston Chronicle, 3/24/19

<https://www.chron.com/business/houston-and-oil/article/30-years-later-Exxon-Valdez-oil-spill-13711580.php>

At the time, it was one of the worst man-made disasters in the history of the United States. And a Texas owned-and-based company was responsible for it.